

## **Alley Association Steering Group Minutes of meeting 22 May 2018**

### 1. Attendees:

John Brunton (JB), White Rock Neighbourhood Ventures (on behalf of Jess Steele)  
Beth Woolf (BW), Jericho Road Solutions  
Lisa Finch, Project Artworks  
Kevin Reynolds, Pixie Curls  
Kristy Byrne, Hastings Library  
Sarah Smart, Hastings Library  
Sam Kinch, Heart of Hastings CLT  
John Harper, Freeholder, Caves  
Margaret Sheehy, MSL  
Bob Thust, Practical Governance (chair and admin)  
Ken Davis, Hastings Urban Design Group (guests)

### 2. Apologies:

Jess Steele (JS), White Rock Neighbourhood Ventures

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

These were approved. It was noted that all matters arising were dealt with later in the agenda.

### 4. Pledges from freeholders and wider stakeholder engagement

It was noted that pledge forms had now been received from all freeholders with any legal rights or responsibilities over the Alley except for one.

It was agreed that:

- This gave the alley association an ability to continue with its overall aims and objectives, but -
- That it would still have to ensure that in doing so it continued to abide by the terms of the agreed constitution including fully respecting the legal rights and responsibilities of all freeholders, tenants and neighbours whether they had signed the pledge or not and that we continued to not seek to carry out activity which might have a material i.e. significant negative impact on existing businesses

It was agreed that as well as sharing the minutes of this meeting and launching the Alley Association website (see item 3 below) we ought to actively engage with the local

community of businesses and residents that back onto the Alley again to update them and get their views on where things are currently at.

It was agreed that:

- SK and BT would agree a plan for doing this, including the key questions we might ask. These to include discussions on how we best encourage everyone to e.g. keep things clean, monitor rubbish, manage any health and safety issues and respect the access rights of others
- That SF would lead the consultation work over the next 4-5 weeks

## 5. Communications and events

MS presented some initial branding, leaflet designs and website content for the alley association. This included a draft events protocol, events form for people to submit ideas and calendar to help manage any events and ensure the rights and responsibilities of freeholders, tenants and neighbours were protected.

It was agreed that:

- The initial branding, leaflet designs and website contents looked very good.
- MS and her team could now complete this work and send any final version and copy to the Steering Group by email for approval.
- That we needed to ensure all communications were clear what the Alley Association was i.e. an informal group of legal owners, tenants, neighbours and other interested individuals that exists only to enhance The Alley and ensure it remains for the benefit of everyone who lives in Hastings – and not a legal body that is assuming any ownership rights of what is an unadopted space.
- That we would aim to distribute the website and leaflets across our networks in June to launch the website and encourage people to submit some ideas for potential events.
- That we are aiming for a small events programme over the summer starting from July and into early October.
- That some early proposals for events already received would be considered by MS and any recommendations submitted to the Steering Group by email for approval.
- That BT would check with JS whether further funding might be available for another clean-up in advance of any further events.

MS was thanked for her and her team's work on this.

## 6. Potential capital investment

Ken Davis from Hastings Urban Design Group (HUDG) presented some initial thoughts on what might represent possible and desirable capital investment in the Alley given the Alley Association's overall aims.

It was agreed that over the next 4- 5 weeks:

- WRNV would commission both a topographical and drainage survey of the full Alley over the next 2-3 weeks
- WRNV would consider the need for a bat survey in order to ascertain whether an electronic solution to pest control might be feasible
- That WRNV would commission HUDG to do some initial costings to enable the alley association to narrow down some costed options for further consultation with e.g. freeholders and tenants:
  - Enhancing the gate at the same location as currently, together with fob access in, open access out and automatic closing
  - Simple tarmac based resurfacing and central drainage and a canopy in the first part of the Alley
  - Simple tarmac based resurfacing and central drainage and a canopy in the back part of the Alley where it opens out into a large space
  - Potential options for fixings, lighting and electricity along the Alley
  - Potential options for pest control

KD was thanked for his work on this so far.

#### 7. Any other business

- KR was thanked for his continued efforts to control the pigeon problem using the mast at the end of the Alley
- BT noted that there were no current plans for the Alley Association to become a legally constituted group as this may send out the wrong message that we were trying to take some sort of control or direct ownership, rather than play an inclusive facilitation and support role
- SK suggested we consider meanwhile use of the space at the back of the alley for small scale events, drinks and lunches by placing some tables and chairs there to encourage people to start seeing the Alley as a used and valuable space
- BT noted that CCF funding would need to explicitly go towards activity which may bring about long-term jobs or economic benefit and that as a result the Alley Association may need to seek other funding opportunities together as plans develop
- LF updated the group on their proposal with Hearts of Hastings to purchase 12 Claremont – this is still in process with meetings coming up on which she will report back to the SG
- BT agreed to discuss with the council how this group might best get their support for any health and safety issues that might arise in the Alley or that are raised by those that contact the Alley Association directly, as has already happened on a couple of occasions.
- BT noted that he had been in touch with UK Power Networks about recent proposal to reposition cables – KB agreed to follow up with them to see where those plans had got to.

#### 8. Date of the next meeting

This was agreed as 12 – 2pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June at Rock House.